

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 12-14 are pending in the application with Claims 1, 8 and 14 as the independent claims. Claims 6 and 11 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-5, 8-10 and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Myllymaki et al. (US 6,018,646) in view of Miyazaki (US 5,081,713).


It is gratefully acknowledged that Claim 14 is allowed and Claims 6, 7 and 11 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 6, which is objected to by the Examiner for depending upon a rejected base claim but would otherwise be allowed. Claim 8 is likewise amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 11, which is also objected to by the Examiner but would otherwise be allowed. Applicant respectfully submits that no further search is necessary since the Examiner acknowledges the allowability of cancelled Claims 6 and 11 now incorporated in independent Claims 1 and 8.

Accordingly, Claims 1 and 8 are believed to be in condition for allowance; therefore the dependent claims 2-5, 9-10, 12 and 13, which owe their dependency upon Claim 1 and 8 respectively, are also in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 12-14 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell", written over a horizontal line.

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